



The Sunbeam December 2015

Lansing United Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Jane Sautter

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



Christmas 2015

Christmas Eve Services 5:00 and 8:00

From the Pastor

Advent—Time of New Possibilities

Ahhh...Advent! One of my very favorite seasons in the church calendar! This is a time to think about possibilities and new beginnings and rebirth. This is a time of wonder and waiting and preparation. We have heard the story over and over again, and yet, it never seems to get old. Little children still get sooo excited and old folks are filled with memories to share. For this brief period of time, we tend to put our grievances behind us. We can hope and pray that the violence will cease for a while. As I look at the Advent passages in scripture, I am drawn to the Isaiah passage “the wolf will live with the lamb, the panther lie down with the kid, calf, lion, and fat-stock beast together, with a little boy to lead them.” (The Jerusalem Bible, Isaiah 11: 6)

For me, this Advent is bittersweet. Even though I love everything about the season, I am unable to shake the knowledge that this is the last Advent I will spend with you whom I love so very much. I am thinking about possibilities and new beginnings, but there is a hint of sadness there as well. When I start feeling this way, I am drawn to the early poets of the faith. I would like to share with you one of my favorites for this season of hope:

Come my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

-George Herbert
1593-1633

May your Advent be filled with joy and anticipation!!
Pastor Jane

Greening the Church

Christmas Band Rehearsal

December 5, 9:00 a.m.

Join us to share breakfast and decorate the church. Here's your chance to learn how to make a Christmas wreath as we take the sanctuary from “boards to boughs.” Please stop by for breakfast and help decorate our sanctuary.

If you'd like to play in the Christmas band on December 20, we will rehearse December 5 during the decorating. Band is open to kids and adults who play instruments and can play the Christmas carol books, which are arrangements of hymns that you know. Sign up on the choir room door or just show up for rehearsal. Questions? email Diane Withiam

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 13, 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus told in nine short scripture readings from the Bible interspersed with Christmas carols, hymns and music. The format was first used on Christmas Eve 1880. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The service of Lessons & Carols here at LUMC grew out of requests made during the Adult Ministries Talkback in June 2014. This special worship opportunity was shepherded by Sue Frahm, Sharon Powell, and Adult Ministries. This season we are pleased to include a Christmas Cookie Reception in the fellowship hall. If you wish to contribute cookies, please contact Sue Coles or sign up in the fellowship hall.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20

11:15 a.m.

Please join us after Sunday School on December 20 for the annual Children's Christmas Pageant! We're excited to bring you our rendition of “The Not-So-Silent Night.” Come out to support the children and all their hard work putting this show together to remind us all of the reason for the season (hint: Jesus)!



Senior High Christmas Party

December 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All 9th through 12th grade folks are invited to the Senior High Christmas Party on Friday, December 18! Bring a small gift for the White Elephant Exchange (valued up to \$10). Anybody and everybody in senior high is welcome! Yes, even you, Caleb. Contact Kevin Klippel (youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org) with any questions.



Junior High Christmas Party

December 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

All 7th & 8th grade folks are invited to the Jr. High Christmas Party on Sunday, December 20! Lots of fun, food, games, and perhaps a little something about Jesus as well! Bring a small gift for the White Elephant Exchange (valued up to \$10). Invite your friends, neighbors, and that kid in band that you've never talked to before. As long as they're in Junior High, everyone is welcome! Contact Kevin Klippel (youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org) with any questions.

Rescue Mission Dinner

The Adults in Mission group is coordinating a dinner at the Ithaca Rescue Mission on Sunday, 20 December, at 3:00 p.m.

We are in need of our congregation's assistance to provide enough food for up to 50 people. We will be serving pasta, bread, salads, drinks, and dessert. If you are interested in making a pan of pasta or helping in any capacity see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact Laura Alexander (alexanderlaura@yahoo.com or 533-4869). We especially encourage senior high youth to sign up to help serve dinner!

Helping hands

If you or anyone you know requires assistance at home with a task that just can't be accomplished on your own, the Adults in Mission group is interested in helping.

Please contact Laura or Steve Alexander or Glenn Withiam if you need help. Additionally, as the winter weather sets in we are willing to assist those in need with unexpected events that could make life very difficult.

Giving Tree Sprouts in the Narthex

The giving tree will be up on November 22 with some names, and the rest will be up on the following week, so check back both Sundays. Please return gifts (with cards) by December 7 so that they can be organized and distributed at the December Food Pantry, December 15.

The committee will have to shop for any tags that are not taken, so grab some tags and head out to help our families.—*Diane Skroback*

Personal Items for Our Neighbors

We have been asked to help make Christmas a little better for the boys who reside at the Finger Lakes Residential Center. They have asked for personal care items as well as other things that will make their lives a little brighter. Note that the items should not be wrapped.

Here's a partial list of items they'd like to have: shampoo, conditioner, men's deodorant, men's body wash, men's lotion, playing cards, and gift cards—including Walmart, Target, and iTunes.

A box will be provided in the narthex to collect these items and should be in no later than December 18.

Adult Ministries Notes

Adult Ministries wishes you a blessed Advent Season and invites you to help yourself to any of the free Advent Devotional booklets in the narthex or borrow Advent materials from the library table in the fellowship hall. Take time to ponder this wondrous journey of love and light.

The Jesse Tree

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."—Isaiah 11:1

Celebrate our journey to Christmas with a family tree suggested by Isaiah's prophecy. Our Jesse Tree is located on the Adult Ministries bulletin board in the Narthex. Match the ornaments with the daily scripture passages provided on the table. Our set of 40 ornaments for the season leading to Christmas portrays the spiritual heritage of Jesus.

When God Comes Down

Eileen Davis continues our Advent series on Sunday mornings in the adult classroom. Through worship, scripture, and prayer, we train our eyes to see God's presence so that in the hubbub of the "holidays," we are prepared to celebrate a "holy day"—the day when God came to us in human flesh. In this study, James A. Harnish explores the lives of people who witnessed the miracle in the Incarnation and invites us to reflect on those stories so that we become witnesses with them to the one light that will never be overcome.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

*Lansing United
Methodist
Church*

		<p>1 Needleworkers 10:00 Ladies in Fellowship Together 6:30 Crossroads Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>2 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Senior High Youth 6:00</p>	<p>5 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 Church Decorating and Christmas Band 9:00 Including K.A.N. Prayer Shawl Ministry/ Caregivers 10:00</p>
<p>6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Finance 10:30</p>	<p>7 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Bible Study at LUMC 12:00 Staff Parish 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00 Baby Shower for Klippels 7:00</p>	<p>8 Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>9 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>10 Sunbeam Deadline Midnight</p>	<p>11 Senior High Youth 6:00</p>	<p>12 Men's Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Lessons and Carols Service 6:30 Youth Mission at All Saints 6:30</p>	<p>14 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study @ Woodsedge 10:30 Bible Study at LUMC 12:00 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>15 Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>16 Women's Bible Study 9:30 and Dish to Pass Luncheon Choir 7:00</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Senior High Christmas Party</p>	<p>19 Men's Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Christmas Pageant 11:15 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Dinner at Rescue Mission 3:00 Junior High Christmas Party 5:00</p>	<p>21 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Food Pantry at the Rink 1:00 Giving Tree Distribution 1:00 Blue Christmas Service 4:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>22 Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE  Family Service 5:00 Candlelight Service 8:00</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS!  LUMC Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Men's Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>27 CHRISTMASTIDE AKA PAJAMA SUNDAY Worship 9:00</p>	<p>28 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>December 2015</i></p>	
Church Office Closed						

K.A.N. Kids Shine Their Light

On October 18, the K.A.N. kids enjoyed going to the Ithaca Rescue Mission to partner with LUMC Adults in Mission as they served a chili and macaroni and cheese dinner to the residents. We would like to thank Steve and Laura Alexander and Marcia Lynch for giving our K.A.N. group this wonderful opportunity to serve our local community.

Following an awesome Fall Festival on November 1, the K.A.N. kids had their November meeting which focused on shining God's light. We talked about how each of us is like a pumpkin. First, God lifts us up, takes us in, and washes all the dirt off of us. We identified this "dirt" as our sins. God opens you up, touches you deep inside, and scoops out all of the yucky stuff, including the seeds of doubt, fear, hate, greed, and envy. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for the world to see.



Digging into the goop...

Trays of pumpkin goop and seeds were revealed to the kids and they were told that they needed to scoop through the goop to find cards hidden in and under the goop. Each card contained a group of words from Matthew 5:14-16 on it ("You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.") Another set of cards was hidden in another mess of pumpkin goop with 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 on it ("For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to the darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.") Once all of the cards were claimed from the slimy mess, the kids put them in order to reveal the Scriptures. We discussed that the goop is the yuckiest, worst parts of us and the seeds are our sins. We had to go through all of the yucky stuff and dig into it to find the good—the words of Scripture that tell us God's good news.

Continued at right

K.A.N. concluded

We all went into the Adult Classroom where the overhead lights were turned off, but a string of white lights illuminated pictures, quotes, and Scriptures that pertained to God's light. It was during this time that the new K.A.N. bulletin board was revealed to the kids as a way for them to share their light and see their light that God has asked and allowed them to shine. Looking at the bulletin board, the kids saw how they have been God's light



...K.A.N. kids discover hidden truths!

as they packed nourishing food for Feed My Starving Children, offered warmhearted fellowship to the residents at Wood-sedge, and provided a hot, homemade meal to the residents at the Ithaca Rescue Mission. We concluded this part of our evening by listening to Kari Jobe's song "We Are" ("We are the light of the world.

We gotta let the light shine."), which is based on the two Scriptures that the children discovered and explored from their pumpkin goop.

Our final project of the night was to make candle ornaments to decorate the Giving Tree. These candles and the gift requests they contain will allow our church family to support and care for families in need this Christmas season. Baby Jesus was born into this world as *the* light. His light is in each one of us and He calls us to shine it brightly to all. Your Giving Tree gifts shine Christ's light in a most beautiful way.

On November 14, the K.A.N. kids continued to shine His light as they displayed impressive teamwork and hospitality to their guests at Apple-bee's. During their pancake breakfast fundraiser, the kids were giddy with excitement and enthusiasm as they served pancakes and bacon to church family and friends. We are so thankful for the support and encouragement we receive from our congregation! This is the light you shine for our young people as they learn and grow in their faithful service.—*Debbie Geise and Bonnie Blair*

UMCOR Board Approves \$1.4 Million for U.S. Recovery

Grants will assist communities in Oklahoma, Texas, and Maryland, whose recovery is far from over

by Linda Unger, UM News Service

The board of directors of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) approved \$1.4 million in October to assist communities in Oklahoma, Texas, and Maryland who experienced disaster, but whose moments in the headlines have long faded, even though their recovery is far from over.

“Sometimes it’s the invisible disasters that really require the greatest funding,” said Greg Forrester, head of UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response. “They come into the news and go out of the news quickly. But for the families affected, the impact lasts a lot longer than the news cycle.”

Tornadoes and Floods

Families in Oklahoma and Texas are still feeling the impact of tornadoes, torrential rain, derechos, and massive flooding that tore across both states last spring. Rain fell steadily for weeks, causing rivers to overflow their banks and flood the homes of thousands, notably those who could least afford it.

Across Texas, more than 40,000 households applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance. These many months later, the Texas Annual Conference disaster response team has identified 300 households with unmet needs within its geographical area, which includes Houston.

In Oklahoma, 66 of 77 counties were affected, and nearly 11,000 households registered with FEMA. The flooding came just as the Oklahoma Annual Conference disaster response team was concluding its long-term recovery work in Moore, which had been leveled by tornadoes in 2013.

“The tornadoes in Moore attracted a lot of funding because the damage was so visible,” Forrester said. “That’s more difficult with flooding because the damage it causes is less visible. The water comes up, does its worst, and then goes away. A lot of the destruction is inside the home; you don’t see it from the street.”

Forrester said UMCOR grants will support the efforts of the Oklahoma and Texas conferences in their long-term recovery efforts, including case management, construction management, and volunteer management.

UMCOR relief concluded

Reducing future disaster risk

Crisfield, Maryland was one of the towns hardest hit by Super Storm Sandy in 2012. “Sandy put four and a half feet of water on Main Street, and affected almost every single resident,” Forrester said—all 2,600 of them.

Nearly three years later, reconstruction and repair are finished, thanks to a collaborative and ecumenical effort. But early on, while assessing damages, the disaster response team found numerous homes that had been in decline long before Sandy. Unless those homes were repaired, they would not withstand another hurricane, even a much smaller one.

“We still had Sandy funds, so we were able to make a grant to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to work on this mitigation project,” Forrester said. It will take about three years to complete.

Financially excluded in Haiti

UMCOR directors also approved a grant in the amount of \$1.5 million to UMCOR's partner FINCA, a global, nonprofit microfinance institution serving low-income entrepreneurs in developing countries. The grant to FINCA will assist Haitians to acquire microloans and help them boost their financial literacy.

This effort is important because only 22 percent of the adult population in Haiti has access to the financial systems that could provide them with the capital to start or sustain a small business—one of the lowest rates of financial inclusion in the Americas. Women and those who live outside of major city centers are among the most excluded.

The UMCOR grant will support FINCA Haiti with capital for its Village Banking system, which will provide small loans to groups of borrowers. With the loans and training in financial literacy, villagers, especially women, will be empowered to build small businesses and improve their standard of living.

The above work is made possible by direct gifts to UMCOR and also by support of One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports UMCOR's work around the world. To support UMCOR, write a check to LUMC with the memo UMCOR, or send your gift directly to UMCOR.

One Great Hour of Sharing will come around on March 6 next year, but you can support UMCOR any time. When you give to One Great Hour, you help support UMCOR's expenses, as well as allow UMCOR to move quickly when there's a need, like the flooding in Texas or in our Southern Tier. You can also designate funds, for example, to the Haitian FINCA effort. When you designate funds through UMCOR, every dime goes to the purpose you specify. No overhead is taken out (that's covered by One Great Hour).

Continued at right

The Sunbeam

December 2015



Lansing United
Methodist Church

WORSHIP 9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00

8:00



Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882

one mile north of the stoplight on

Route 34B in South Lansing.

Church office: 607-533-4070

E-mail: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com

Office manager: Jennifer Moore

www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published monthly by
Lansing United Methodist Church.

Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.

Deadline for the next issue is
December 10, 2015